

DISTRICT NEWS

District Governor 2016-2017 Lion Steve

DG's Message for June



My final contribution - where have the last eleven months gone? No chance to put my feet up yet

though as the next few weeks will be especially busy. We have four Charter celebrations to attend plus the Centenary Fair at Knutsford, also two weekend events for the club. This includes the Beer Festival which is held in a large traditional marquee so security is a problem with the ales needing a few days to settle. I still take my turn to sleep with the beer. Then it's off to Chicago for the Centennial International Convention which should be a fantastic event – and I've no duties, apart from carrying the flag with 105BS member's signatures in the parade, and will be just there to enjoy the social scene plus a bit of sightseeing.

We have enjoyed Charters at Stoke-on-Trent, Buckley & Mold, Newcastle, Flint and Ellesmere Port and also Newport & District which was in fact the last for the club as Newport and Gnosall are merging. It was a memorable afternoon with many reminiscences from Lion President Andy and guests.

Time has been spent in Hanley, pleasant time of course! Several clubs help out at the North Staffs Special Olympics' annual athletics meeting, which brings in SO clubs from Worcester to Wrexham, and it is one of the most satisfying days in my calendar. This year was very special as we were able to induct the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Ian Dudson and his wife Jane, into Stoke-on-Trent club during the lunch break. We also had a lively evening with Stoke at their Lions Youth Brass concert.

The band were as ever brilliant and were ably supported by the CK Community Choir, no one sleeps when they're on as they say!

By the time you read this the Centenary Fair at Knutsford will have happened and I have to thank so many

clubs for getting involved which should make it a great success.

Jean has been given many cheques for the Partners' Appeal, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, and we are very grateful. It is of course one of the Centennial Targets whereby each District is challenged to raise £10,000 to fund one dog. At present we are about £1,000 short of the target and I see that roughly half of our clubs are not on the Treasurer's list. Could I make a plea to any of those clubs to help as it would be fantastic if we could invite the Charity to Handover to receive a cheque. I must say that Hearing Dogs personnel and volunteers have been great to work with and they have been present at many events up and down the country. Jean and I have been invited to their 35th Anniversary and Volunteer Celebration Service in Birmingham on 1st June.

May I take this opportunity to thank John Whitehouse for his many years as Editor of this Newsletter as he too steps down, and other District Officers who are 'retiring' especially District Treasurer John Vaughan. I have already been given my Past District Governor name badge and look forward to wearing it. I'm sure Teresa and then Steve (and hopefully a 2nd Vice DG) will enjoy the experience as much as I have, and I wish them all success.

Best wishes

Steve



Kate Barlow, President Stoke-on-Trent and Nigel Birch, Lions Youth Brass Musical Director

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A Warm Welcome to New Members in May

Ironbridge Severn Gorge

James Philbin

Sale

Ann Evans

Stoke on Trent

Ian Dudson



The Lions Club of Llandudno's First Prostate Cancer Screening Clinic. Held on Monday 24th April 2017

Over the past few years, there have been a growing number of Lions Clubs taking on running prostate cancer screening clinics. Some 1,500 men in the past twelve months have been tested in these free clinics. On Monday 24th April, the Lions in Llandudno held their very first clinic in the Trinity Centre, Trinity Avenue, Llandudno.



Town Crier Billy Baxter officially opens the screening clinic alongside club President Stuart Lowndes

The event was spearheaded by club president Stuart Lowndes who has been treated for prostate cancer. Over the past twelve months the club has been raising funds not only for this clinic but also for its regular commitment to the local community. Lions Stuart said that it's been a very busy year. The club has organised a golf competition

at North Wales Golf Club, organised a fund-raising zip wire challenge and proceeds from the Boxing Day Sea dip have helped fund the clinic.

Martin Smith, Lions Club of Llandudno.



Lichfield Lions Help CHICKS

Prepare for New Season

John & Ann Whitehouse from Lichfield Lions Club went to help other volunteers prepare the new site at Fenny Bentley, just north of Ashbourne for their first intake of underprivileged children.

CHICKS (Country Holidays for Inner City KidS) offer adventure holidays to underprivileged children between 8 and 15 years old. CHICKS have been going for 25 years in Devon and Cornwall, taking kids from all over the country. In 2015 they purchased this site in Derbyshire so that kids from the north of England could attend.



Zone I took on CHICKS as their Zone project in 2015-6 and donated £1,800 to help with purchasing and replacing various items of sports equipment. Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, the new site, "Daleside", was only able to open to guests for a few weeks, but this year they have decided to make Daleside one of their main retreats.

John and Ann were set tasks like cleaning up the equipment in the Arts & Crafts room, and later joined a group from a special school in Coventry to shovel several tonnes of gravel.

Lichfield and Rugeley Lions are hoping to give further assistance to CHICKS at Daleside as a number of their guests are Young Carers, and Zone I have been supporting CASS (Carers Association South Staffs) for many years until they lost the contract to help Young Carers a couple of years ago.

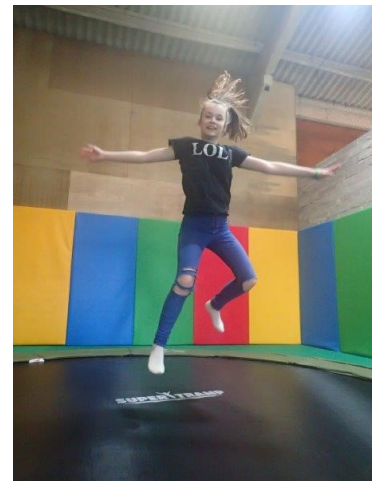
A note from Jenny Quadrado, CHICKS.



"We have been excited to welcome the first group of children on a break here at Daleside last week and the place has been transformed with the sound of them clattering around in the barns and enjoying all we have to offer here at the retreat (well until they go offsite at least!)

As well as enjoying lots of time for 'free play' in the barns and outside (because let's face it, the weather has been glorious here in Fenny Bentley), the children on the break were able to take part in a number of exciting off-site activities,

including walks in the beautiful Derbyshire countryside, whizzing down the water slides at the leisure pool, reaching the dizzy heights of the climbing wall at a local adventure centre and even bottle feeding some lambs at a neighbouring farm.



We had one volunteer comment that she was 'amazed how much the children grow in such a short space of time.'



In fact, one of our individual successes was a very shy child proclaim that this was the most friends he has ever had and it was great to see his confidence soar from not being able to hold a conversation with people at the start of the week to being a lad who was perfectly happy to chat to anyone."

Birkenhead Festival Appeal

On the 9th -10th September 2017 a Festival organised by the Merseyside Welsh Heritage Society, Friends of Birkenhead Park, Birkenhead Lions ,Wirral Council and the Snowdonia National Park Authority will be held in Birkenhead Park in Merseyside.

It seeks to promote the historic links between Wales and Merseyside, through a range of cultural and heritage events linked to the National Eisteddfod of Wales which was held in Birkenhead Park in September 1917. On 6th September 1917, the ceremony of Chairing the Bard took place at the National Eisteddfod in Birkenhead Park, in the presence of the Prime Minister, David Lloyd George. As was the custom, the main prize for this annual celebration of Welsh literature and culture would be a specially designed bardic chair. The winning poet was Hedd Wyn (born Ellis Humphrey Evans), for a traditional Welsh poem entitled 'Yr Arwr' (The Hero). When the winner was announced, no-one stepped forward – Hedd Wyn had been killed in Flanders six weeks previously as has so many other young people of that generation.

The empty chair was draped in a black cloth and was taken back to Hedd Wyn's family farmhouse in Snowdonia, where it remains today - a potent symbol for all the empty chairs in homes after the First world War. We want to use the 'Black Chair' story to engage schools in Merseyside and throughout Wales giving a history of World War I, while also exploring and sharing an understanding of Welsh culture and the historic links between Wales and Birkenhead.

There will be as part of the celebration an open poetry competition within the Eisteddfod tradition, for young people aged 11 - 19 on the theme of 'The Hero' - the subject of the original 1917 winning poem. This will be promoted in Welsh schools and colleges as well as locally and entrants will be able to use English or Welsh. Ten winners will be invited to perform as part of the Festival in September. Two tradition Crowns will be awarded to the winning entries, one in Welsh and the other in English.

In addition there will be welsh music / entertainment provided by choirs drawn from several schools on Anglesey , the North Wales Rugby Choir and the Harpist Dylan Cernyw and the Rhos Ophreus Male Voice Choir and I am sure several other choirs, singers and poets etc.

Although this is not a District appeal on behalf of my Lions Club, Birkenhead, I have to try to raise funds from various organisations to assist with items like transportation of the choirs, supplying two crowns and also the striking of at least 500 commemorative medals. If any Club or individual is able to make a donation please contact me.

Ken Fretwell

Secretary Birkenhead Lions
20 Millers Way
Moreton
Wirral
CH46 6EH.
Tel. 0151 678 3597

Environmental Monthly News.

Articles about Environmental.

This month first article Cirl Bunting, second article Red Kite bird's conservation measures to protect the decline and third article years period 2017/2018 rules and information opportunities enter District 105BS and Multiple District Environmental Photographic Competition.

Link for Lions Environmental Newsletters:-

<http://www.lions105bs.org.uk/>

Christopher Evans. Environmental Officer.



Centenary News



Say it with flowers-that's what a number of clubs are planning.

Flower beds around the district are being sponsored by local clubs to be decked out in Lions colours – look out for them in Stone, Congleton and Newcastle. Any others please let us know – and it would be great to see some pictures of them in full bloom too.

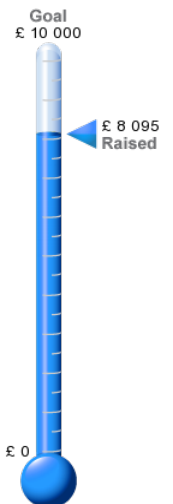


On the subject of plants here's a chance to **Win a Centenary Mug**- there is one waiting for the first person to send in a picture of the plant Lion's Tail (*leonotis leonurus*) growing in this country. Get plant spotting.

Our Hearing Dogs appeal is inching closer to the £10,000 we need but we do need all clubs to get involved-there are still more than 20 clubs yet to make a donation – just £100 from each would get us to our target – remember this is also the DG's Partner's Appeal. If your club can help this great cause please make cheques payable to District 105BS endorsed with Hearing Dogs/DG Partner appeal on the back.

Please remember to record any work towards centenary targets as part of your club's activities report. It is very simple;-

Go to MyLCI then to MY Club-Select Service Activity-Select Add activity-Select signature project – then a drop down menu will list all the MD targets - Select from the list and enter details then save. Any club member can do it though they will need a password from one of the club officers.



The first entries are in for our 100 WORDS FOR THE WORLD competition. Judging will take place at the beginning of July and the results will be announced to competing clubs in time to let schools know before the break up for the summer. Entries should be with me by 30th June.

Please remember to let us know what your club is planning for the centenary, ideas shared can often be an inspiration to another club. Don't forget to send in pictures and write ups of any of your centenary events to be included in a special edition centenary newsletter later this year.

For more information contact District Centennial Chair PDG Shirley Vaughan

Visiting Lions Competition

The results so far from 1st March 2017 up to 18th May 2017

Stoke on Trent	74
Wilmslow	26
Ellesmere Port and District	24
Llandudno	24
Leek	21
Cannock	18
Telford	18
Newcastle	16
Tamworth	16
Uttoxeter	14
Beaumaris Menai Aethwy	6
Sale	6
Stone	6
Buckley and Mold	2
Gnosol	2
Urmston	2
Alsager	1
Cheadle	1
Rugeley	1



Pam Trevena will be taking over from me. Completed forms can be sent to Pam at:
4 Morston
Dosthill
Tamworth
Staffordshire
B77 1PP

They can also be scanned and e-mailed to pam.trevena@gmail.com

Lion Sarah Cowling

The copy deadline for the next issue of the District Newsletter is 22nd June 2017

Please identify key people in any relevant photographs otherwise the impact of the story line may be lost.

Newsletter Contact for the May NL is :-

Lion Margaret Marsh:-
bsnewsletter@lions105bs.org.uk

After 4 years of compiling the District News Letter I have decided to pass on the task to someone new. Margaret, I am sure, will do a fantastic job and , no doubt, bring some new ideas to the monthly mag.

I wish Margaret all the best for the future and would like to thank all of you who have contributed to and read my attempts to spread the word throughout District 105BS.

John Whitehouse

Hednesford Centennial Lions Club Charter Anniversary BBQ

On the 13th of May 2017 Hednesford Lions held their first charter anniversary at Marquis Drive on Cannock Chase A.O.N.B.

As a young club without traditions to follow or adhere to it was decided to break away from the usual black tie charter evenings and try something a little more unconventional. Eventually it was decided that we would hold a BBQ, in May, and hope that the weather gods would look favourably upon our 'bravery'. A local visitor centre, the site of the old RAF Hednesford camp, was selected as our venue and plans were formed. The afternoon would be simple, casual and accessible to all with friends and family encouraged to join our celebrations.



As our charter would be held in a public space all clubs were encouraged to bring their own gazebos and banners, so our first job was to welcome our guests and help them get set up. At 2 o'clock, with construction of the Lions village complete, Lion President Christopher Moxham escorted our guests on a short guided tour of RAF Hednesford. This included many landmarks which are still present today and an opportunity to visit a restored WW1 hut with volunteers on hand to answer any questions.

Upon their return our guests were greeted with the smells of a roaring BBQ in full swing. As a steady stream of hotdogs and burgers began to appear and clubs picnics spread far and wide, quiz sheets were handed out, and a variety of games unveiled for everybody to enjoy. Including our newly made cornhole board game which had a thorough test before its first public outing at Knutsford by competing Lions teams.



With everybody suitably fed and watered the afternoon came to an end. We received great feedback from all who attended and have had suggestions of doing a similar venture with other clubs to raise funds. It was a great, informal afternoon of celebration and we cannot wait to do it all again next year.

Thanks to all those who attended and supported us.

Hednesford Lions Vice President,

Robert Blount

